Rick and Laurie Johnson Now Have Famous Father

by Karen Kuhn

Not every student has a father who has had the opportunity to travel behind-the-scene with a presidential candidate. Sophomore Laurie and senior Rick Johnson have such a father.

Richard Johnson traveled for five days with the Democratic presidential hopeful, Senator George McGovern. This trip was the subject of a television program presented two days ago.

Rick's father and family was selected by the National Public Affairs Center for Television (NPACT) to represent the "average Americans" for a series of shows dealing with American life. Their first show was aired last February, and it dealt with some of the economic problems of middle class America. The second show presented Mr. Johnson as an average American on the campaign trail with McGovern.

"We thought the first show went real well," stated Rick, Mr. Johnson's oldest son. "We were surprised at all the phone calls and letters that we received. Some people agreed with what we had to say, and some didn't."

For the second show, Mr. Johnson was chosen to go on the campaign trail with Senator McGovern for five days to see how McGovern could possibly help the average American.

"Dad was really excited about the trip," said Rick. "He thought it was a great opportunity to see an actual campaign in action."

Rick states that his father attended many major cities with the Senator, and covered about 8,500 miles. Mr. Johnson was told to try and stay as close to McGovern as he possibly could. Then the reporters would have Mr. Johnson report his opinions on what he saw.

"One day Dad was lucky enough to get a long interview with the Senator," stated Rick. "It was more of a personal interview though. They mostly talked about football, teaching, families, and religion."

Rick says that his father did learn a lot about McGovern's stand on the major campaign issues.

Mr. Johnson's attitude has changed since his trip. Although he isn't formally committed to any one candidate, Mr. Johnson said that McGovern isn't as bad as some people think. Mr. Johnson found him to be a dedicated man who likes to talk to people.

Rick stated that their family life really hasn't been affected that much by all the publicity they have been receiving. "Just many letters and phone calls," he says, "but when they were filming there were so many photographers around."

After this show, the filming will probably end for the Johnsons and their four children.

Rick says his father was very glad that he was able to go on this trip. It gave him the chance to learn things about McGovern he wouldn't have learned by reading papers. He feels his TV show will help other middle American voters decide who they really want as the next President.

Rick and Laurie are both very proud of what their father has done. "It's fantastic to have such an opportunity," they say. Rick goes on to say, "Even though I cannot vote, I can still have an opinion, and I do feel the same as my dad."

Rick and Laurie Johnson listen to their father talk about his trip with Senator George McGovern. (Photo by Chuck Brynelsen)

Representative Council Organizes Activities For Homecoming Week

by Sandy Giese

Many new activities are being planned and sponsored by the Representative Council committees for Autumn Round-Up Week, October 9-14.

Karen Kuhn, Round-Up Week chairman, is looking forward to "total school involvement with the week's activities."

Seniors Gail Kuthe and Lynn Morey are in charge of planning the events for the week. Pam Eldridge, senior, along with her committee will be decorating the school throughout the week.

Arrangements for the pep rally on Thursday, October 12, are being made by senior Sue Johnson with Tom Donlon, junior, and Dave Sander, senior, acting as coaches for the girls' powderpuff football game that evening.

Coronation that Friday is being taken care of by the cheerleaders; parades following are being organized by senior Reid Huey, and Lloyd Green, senior, is planning the mixer after the Homecoming game.

Scott Erickson, senior, is in charge of all buttons and ribbons and junior Sandy Giese will be publicizing the week's events.

The Homecoming Dance on Saturday, October 14 is being sponsored by the Lettermen's Club.

Plans are still tentative and anyone wishing to help with any of the activities should contact one of the committee chairmen.